Purchase of AN-38 Transport Planes from Russia

4400. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has entered into a deal with Russia for purchasing Antonov AN-38 Transport Planes for the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any joint project with Russia underway for developing transport aircraft; and

(d) if so, the details and targeted time for developing this aircraft alongwith the estimated expenses on each of the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) HAL has been tasked to co-develop and co-produce a multi-role transport aircraft as a part of a joint project with Russia. The aircraft development and its certification is scheduled in six years from the date of launch of the project.

Report of Price negotiation Committee on Acquisition of AJTs

4401. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price negotiating Committee on acquisition of Hawk AJTs submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has put its foot down on the acquisition of AJTs because of its having American subsystems; and